

The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church
550 North Main Street, Stewartville, NJ 08886
908-859-1399

www.stewartvillepc.org

Church e-mail – office@stewartvillepc.org
Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

April 2026

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

Sarah Sampson – Treasurer

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

Worship Service and Children's Sunday School are held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

Adult Sunday School is held at 9:20 a.m.

**Holy Communion is celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each month.**

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Good Friday, April 3. The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will also be broadcast via Zoom, using the Sunday Zoom link.

Easter Sunday, April 5. We will celebrate Easter during the 10:30 a.m. worship service with Holy Communion.

No Sunday School on Easter. The Nursery is open, but not staffed.

****Pastor Stephen would like everyone to bring their sunglasses to the Easter worship service.****

Blood Drive. We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, May 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-619-8697 or email her at cmbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

**Blood
DRIVE**



Rummage and Bake Sale on Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11.

Hours: Friday, April 10, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please see page 5 for more information.

The Good News Cannot Be Stopped!

Easter proclaims a truth the world has tried again and again to silence: Death cannot stop the Good News. The Good News of Christ is very much alive, unbound, and wild in the world.

Jesus once compared the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed – tiny at first, but growing beyond expectation. God's Good News is like that seed, planted in unlikely places, spreading without limit. It is like water turned into wine at a wedding banquet, surprising us with unexpected joy. It is like loaves of bread multiplied, expanding until every hungry person is fed.

And on Easter, we discover something even more astonishing: Not even death can bury this Good News.

In Matthew's Gospel, the resurrection is anything but quiet. The earth quakes. An angel descends from heaven and rolls back the stone in dazzling white. Roman guards fall to the ground in terror. Matthew makes it clear that something seismic has happened – something that shakes the foundations of the world. God has acted, and nothing will ever be the same.

Into that trembling moment, the angel speaks the same words that echo throughout the Bible: "Do not be afraid."

Soon after, the risen Christ meets the women and repeats the message: "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers and sisters ... there they will see me."

These words matter. These words matter, because the world that crucified Jesus had not disappeared. The powers that mocked him were still present. Pontius Pilate still ruled. The empire had not fallen overnight. Fear would have been a very natural response.

Yet Jesus sends the women anyway. Go and tell. Go back to Galilee – the place where it all began. Go there, because the risen Christ will not only be seen in dramatic moments, but also in everyday life. And this promise still holds true today.

The Good News of the resurrection is not only that the tomb was empty long ago, but also that Christ is still present and alive among us today. We see glimpses of resurrection in loud and dramatic moments – in acts of courage, justice, and compassion that shake the world. But we also see it in quiet, subtle ways: In forgiveness offered, in hope that refuses to die, in neighbors caring for neighbors, in a community gathered in love.

Sometimes, we may wonder how we can trust resurrection in a world where death and suffering is still so prominent. The answer Easter gives us is simple and profound: God's Good News is stronger. Stronger than fear. Stronger than despair. Stronger than any power that tries to diminish the image of God in us. And God continues to break open tombs and bring new life where we least expect it.

So this Easter, hear again the words spoken at the empty tomb: Do not be afraid.

Christ is risen ... He is risen indeed!

Alleluia. Amen.

Palm Sunday



We were blessed to have David Rimelis as our special musician on Palm Sunday. In addition to playing the violin and guitar during the worship service, he composed a hymn for our congregation! Pictured L to R: Brian Ballentine, Music Director; David Rimelis; Pastor Stephen; and Hudson Musuuza, our UrbanPromise Fellow.



David also gave an entertaining Children's Sermon, complete with puppets and a song!



And they're off!! The children were treated to an Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service.



(More photos on page 7)



Laura Diacopoulos was ordained and installed as a Deacon on Sunday, March 8. Pictured L to R: Cindy Bowman, Clerk of Session; Laura; and Pastor Stephen.

Community Garden Clean Up. We will be freshening our Community Garden beds to get ready for planting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 11. Helpers are needed!

We will be planting at a later date.

Please bring gardening gloves.

For more information, please contact Carol Evanoski at 610-451-8186.



Catholic Charities Food Pantry. We continue to donate food and toiletries to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

In March, we donated 18 bags of food and toiletries.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in need of peanut butter and jelly, macaroni & cheese, pasta, and pasta sauce, as well as grocery bags.

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be away from the office Monday, April 13 to Saturday, April 18.

If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the following Elder on Call:
Fred Gary at 908-454-6311



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|----|--|
| 3 | Nathaniel Bove
Bob Heinrich
Bo Johnson |
| 5 | Dawn Barretto
Adeline Clark
Charlie & Sue Henshaw –
Anniversary |
| 6 | Bob Hurte
Marilyn Roseberry |
| 10 | Bruce Stoddart |
| 13 | Giavanna Cantagallo-Rohm |
| 15 | Madison Wolfinger |
| 20 | Betty Corio
Paulie Williams |
| 22 | Henry Hamlen |
| 23 | Evelyn Evanoski |
| 26 | John Hawk |
| 27 | Savana Williams |
| 29 | Monet Gonda
Jeffrey Guidi |
| 30 | Scott Goff |

Birthday/Anniversary List. Are we missing your birthday or anniversary? Please let the office know, either by calling 908-859-1399 or e-mailing office@stewartsvillepc.org. We don't want to miss your special day!

UPDATE! We received additional monetary donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring offering!

We received a total of **\$200**, which was donated to the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

We also collected 89 cans of soup, which were donated to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

Devotionals. The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office:

- "Our Daily Bread," Mar./April/May issue.
- "Today," Mar./April issue
- "Our Daily Bread," large-print edition, April/May/June issue.

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

The Zoom worship service is held at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live during the in-person worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Please be prepared with bread and juice/wine.

Please join us every Sunday morning by using the link below or by calling with the Meeting ID.

The great thing about Zoom is even if you do not have a computer or smartphone, you can still phone in to listen to the service.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at office@stewartsvillepc.org or call the church during our regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94418910396?pwd=WlQwMHByZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Lisa Muentener, Laura Choi, and Ella Choi were delegates from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. They attended from March 6-13 at the United Nations in New York City.

This annual gathering brings together governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to evaluate progress on gender equality and women's rights globally.

The session focused on ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, while reviewing progress on women's full participation in public life and the elimination of violence.

The Presbyterian News Service featured Laura and Ella in an article and video on mother-daughter delegates. You can find the article and video on either Laura's or Pastor Stephen's Facebook page.

Rummage and Bake Sale. The church will hold an Old-Fashioned Rummage and Bake Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 10, and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11.

Proceeds will be divided between our Capital Campaign Fund and The Village NJ, which supports local families in crisis.

Donations are needed! Donations may be dropped off on Monday and Tuesday, April 6 and April 7: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon & 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Bake Sale donations will be accepted from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9.

We need help to sort donations, and work at the Rummage Sale on April 10 and 11. We will be setting up for the sale from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6.

We also need people to help with the Bake Sale, and to help clean up.

For more information or to sign up to help, please contact Laura Choi at 717-599-9875 or Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Rummage and Bake Sale. Please stop by during the sale to say hello and find a treasure of your own!

Session Notes – March 23, 2026

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Cindy Bowman.
- In 2025, 104 “Praying for You Letters” were mailed to members and friends of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. In addition, 10 “Welcome Letters” were mailed to visitors.
- Laurie Winans was elected as Clerk of Session.
- Our Summer Worship Schedule will begin on Sunday, June 7. Worship services will be at 10:00 a.m. through Sunday, September 6.
- A week-long Summer Mission Trip to UrbanPromise in Camden, New Jersey was approved. The dates are August 2-7, 2026.
- We made the prayerful decision to donate:
 - America’s Grow-A-Row: \$500
 - Catholic Charities Food Ministry: \$500
 - Community FoodBank of NJ: \$500
 - Firth Youth Center: \$500
 - Greenwich Emergency Squad: \$500
 - Habitat for Humanity: \$500
 - Meals On Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley: \$500
 - Miller-Keystone Blood Center: \$500
 - NORWESCAP Food Bank: \$500
 - Presbyterian Depot: \$500
 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: \$500
 - Stewartsville Fire Company: \$500
- Pastor Stephen will be away April 13-18 and the month of July. (Pastor Stephen’s Sabbatical is 12 weeks in 2026.)
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - April 19: The Rev. Scott DeCaro
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, April 27, 2026.
- Treasurer’s Report:
As of February 28, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$6,053 in our General Fund Budget.
- As we concluded our meeting, we committed to praying for one another and our church, lifted up our joys and concerns, and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Great Hour of Sharing. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be received through Easter Sunday, April 5.

The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. A special envelope is in your 2026 offering envelope box, or you may write a check noting “OGHS” on the memo line. If you are giving online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and then OGHS.



Kenny Sampson-Duch wore a tie to church on Palm Sunday because he “wanted to look like Pastor Stephen.”



McKenna Baker and Pastor Stephen, holding McKenna’s “baby.”



Adult Lunch Group. “Grazing with Grace,” our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Byron Place II, 821 Route 57, Stewartsville. We had 18 people attend the March luncheon, and we collected \$31 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. Each month we encourage participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheon to donate to the Food Bank. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, April 6, to make your reservation.

Women’s Circle. The Women’s Circle will meet on Thursday, April 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Jasmine Sushi Hibachi & Thai Restaurant, 1855 Sullivan Trail, Easton, PA. All women are invited to join us for a meal, good conversations, and the opportunity to encourage one another. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.



College Care Packages. The Deacons will be assembling and sending out College Care Packages after the worship service on Sunday, April 12. If you would like to contribute snacks, candy, etc., please contact Carol Evanoski at 610-451-8186.



Summer Mission Trip. For our Summer Mission Trip, we will participate in the WorkGroup program of UrbanPromise in Camden, NJ. The dates are Sunday, Aug. 2, through Friday, Aug. 7.

The WorkGroup program combines ministry and practical projects. Mornings involve engaging Camden-area youth in summer camps. Afternoons are for projects such as landscaping and painting. Enrichment activities include game night, a tour of Camden, and dinner discussions with our teens.

If interested, please speak with Pastor Stephen. You can also contact the church office to have a brochure emailed to you.

Camp Johnsonburg Brochures. Brochures for the upcoming season at Camp Johnsonburg are available in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office. Our church offers scholarships to Camp Johnsonburg. Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you are interested.



Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 pm AA	2	3 Good Friday 7 pm Good Friday Service of Shadows	4
5 Easter 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion No Sunday School 6 pm AA	6 9 am-12 Noon Rummage Sale Drop Off 5-8 pm Rummage Sale Drop Off Rummage Set Up Tables	7 9 am-12 Noon Rummage Sale Drop Off 5-8 pm Rummage Sale Drop Off	8 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	9 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Byron Place II 5-8 pm Bake Sale Drop Off Rummage Sale Set Up	10 8 am Friday Devotional Group, Panera Rummage & Bake Sale 8 am to 4 pm	11 Rummage & Bake Sale 8 am to 1 pm 10 am Community Garden Clean Up
12 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School Special Music by Jim Sikra Time for Fellowship after Worship Service Deacons Assemble College Care Packages after Worship 6 pm AA	13 Pastor Stephen Away from Office through April 18	14	15 7 pm AA	16	17 8 am Friday Devotional Group	18 10 am Samplemakers
19 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	20	21	22 7 pm AA	23 6 pm Women's Circle, Jasmine Sushi Hibachi & Thai	24 Church Office Closed	25 8 am Grange, Roan Hall/Kitchen
26 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	27 7 pm Session Meeting	28	29 7 pm AA	30		